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AUTUMN.

I.

I climb the hill that overlooks the sea,
I saw the waves slide slowly up the shore,
Around me screamed the gulls, above the roar
Of winds and waters rose their wintry cry.

II.

The heavens flamed with sunset; crimson clouds
Lay on the long horizon many a mile,
And all the moaning East began to smile
As if it felt the coming of the dawn.

III.

The sky was many-colored, and the earth;
The dolphin year showed loveliest in death,
Loveliest and saddest, as its passing breath
Swept the spare grass, and died upon the sea.

IV.

The sun went down; far in the fading West
Twinkled the evening star; I heard the roar
Of angry waves upon a sullen shore,
Wending through dying woods my thoughtful way.

C. C. C.

October 20th, 1849.

NO AMERICAN COPYRIGHT IN ENGLAND.

In no instance of agitation that we can call to mind, have Truth and Right more completely vindicated themselves in the progressive development and working of facts, than in that of the International Copyright Movement. At the beginning of the cause some ten years ago, the position that a law acknowledging the right of an Author to his work in whatever country it might be found, and the paramount necessity for the interests of all classes—Foreign Authors,—Native Authors,—Publishers,—the People,—had but a few straggling American writers for its friends. By degrees the conviction came upon other American authors, and in a little time the great body of native writers joined in an application for a Law adjusting the question. This was strongly opposed by the Publishers of the Country. It was not many years, however, before they discovered that their true interests lay in such a regulation and control of the business of publishing, as would grow out of a proper protection of their reprints of Foreign Works. One work, their own by purchase, and uninterfered with, they saw would be worth more than ten,

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subject to opposition and unregulated rivalry. The names of our most eminent publishers were, therefore, now given to the Memorial, in appeal for such a law as the occasion seemed to require. The people, too, less sanguine of the advantages of having obscene French novels and loose broadsheets spread among their families at low prices (as they were low in every quality), have ceased to be eager for cheap books, and begin to pay remunerating prices for decent editions of such works as secure a hearing, and seem worthy of purchase. There remained, however, a slight vantage-ground possessed by a few American authors, who by reason of age and a position secured before the present state of things had arisen, or from some happy current of temporary popularity, were in demand in England, and were kept calm and satisfied with matters as they were, by receiving handsome sums from London publishers. And this it was supposed would continue, and make the business of writing books pleasant and easy for them at least, however their less fortunate brethren might fare. This plank, too, has at length, as appears by the following emphatic decision in the English Courts, gone by the board; and we may now expect a general rally of all classes in behalf of the International Copyright. Nothing else remains to be done in the premises. We give the law as stated at length in the card of Messrs. Blackie & Son, leading publishers in Glasgow:—

TO THE TRADE.

ASSUMED COPYRIGHT IN FOREIGN AUTHORS.

KNIGHT & SON v. BLACKIE & SON.

We have just seen a circular and advertisement, issued by Messrs. Knight and Son, cautioning the trade against selling our Edition of the Tenth Volume of Barnes's Notes on the New Testament, which they declare to be a piracy, and in which they claim to have a copyright. We do not intend to be drawn into any controversy on the subject, but think it proper to make the following short statement:—

We have always held the opinion, founded on a careful consideration of the statutes respecting copyright,—and the recent decision of the Court of Exchequer in the case of "Boosey v. Purday" has fully confirmed that opinion,—that these statutes were intended exclusively for the benefit of *authors being British subjects*, and that they conferred no right whatever on foreign authors, save what they might obtain under the International Copyright Act. Notwithstanding this our firm conviction, which we intimated to Knight and Son, being anxious to avoid the annoyance, loss of time, and expense attending litigation, we endeavored to arrange the matter without going into court; and with this view, terms were proposed between us and Knight and Son, by which we were to pay them what we considered a large sum, and what they admitted to be *greatly beyond what they had paid to Mr. Barnes*, but this arrangement was not finally concluded, in consequence of Knight and Son refusing either to *warrant the copyright* or to *undertake to defend it against invasion*; thus, in effect, intimating by their deeds that they had no confidence in the security of the copyright. While the negotiation was in this way virtually at an end, the decision in Boosey v. Purday was given, and that judgment declares that,—

"The object of the legislature clearly is not to encourage the importation of foreign books,

and their first publication in England, as a benefit to this country, but to promote the cultivation of the intellect of its own subjects; and as the Act of Anne expressly states—to 'encourage learned men to compose and write useful books,' by giving them as a reward, the monopoly of their works for a certain period, dating from their first publication. *We therefore hold that a foreigner, by sending to, and first publishing his works in Great Britain, acquires no copyright.* A British subject who purchases from him such a right as he had in his own country, which could not extend beyond it, cannot be in a better condition here than the foreigner."

Though this decision clearly overturned the title on which Knight and Son had founded their claim to copyright, yet, as *they* believed that this decision would be reversed, if brought before a superior court—*We*, still anxious to avoid litigation, made a further effort at arrangement, by which we proposed without prejudice to pay them a sum to avoid going into court; and a further sum to be paid, provided the decision of the Court of Exchequer in Boosey v. Purday should be reversed in a Court of Error or by the House of Lords within a given time. In this arrangement Messrs. Routledge & Co. had offered to concur, and pay an equal sum to that which we had proposed. But this also was defeated, by Knight and Son insisting on reserving a power to litigate at a future time if they saw fit, or requiring that we should agree to a proposition that appeared to us virtually to preclude any advantage that might be derived from the decision to which we have referred. This we refused to concede, feeling that unless terms could be so adjusted as to finally settle the matter, the case would be better left open to take its course. Finding we could not conclude an arrangement ourselves, we then proposed to refer the question at issue between us to two members of the trade mutually chosen, and to allow them to arrange a basis of settlement, but to this Knight and Son would not agree; and having thus exhausted all the means to effect an amicable adjustment at our command, we published (as we considered and were advised we had a perfect right to do) the 10th volume of our edition, the original volume of Mr. Barnes having been previously entered by him for copyright in Philadelphia in 1847, and printed there during that year and the spring of 1848.

Knight and Son having applied for an injunction, the hearing of the case before the Vice-Chancellor has been, by mutual arrangement, ordered to stand over till next term; but we are advised and have every reason to believe *the injunction will be refused*.

This case involves a question of much interest both to the Trade and to British authors generally; for if foreign authors or their assigns can establish a copyright in this country, while British authors are expressly excluded from the same right in foreign countries (as in the case of America), no international copyright will ever be attained. And while foreign copyrights, maintained by sufferance only, can be purchased for one-tenth or one-hundredth part of their value, there will be little inducement to employ British talent. This case will, however, in all probability, set such pretensions at rest for ever.

In the meantime we confidently assure Booksellers and the Public, that they may safely continue to sell and purchase the 10th volume of our edition of Barnes's Notes; and it has been duly intimated to Knight and Son, that if any further attempts are made by them to impede or injure the sale of such 10th volume, they will be held responsible for any loss or damage that we may sustain by reason thereof.

BLACKIE AND SON.

Glasgow, 27th August, 1849.

Unique Poems.

THE FORGING OF THE ANCHOR.

"COME, see the Dolphin's Anchor forged ; 'tis at a white heat now : The bellows ceased, the flames decreased ; though on the forge's brow, The little flames still fitfully play through the sable mound ; And fitfully you still may see the grim smiths ranking round, All clad in leatheran panoply, their broad hands only bare ; Some rest upon their sledges here, some work the windlass there.

The windlass strains the tackle chains, the black mound heaves below ; And red and deep a hundred veins burst out at every throe : It rises, roars, rends all outright—O, Vulcan, what a glow ! 'Tis blinding white, 'tis blasting bright ; the high sun shines not so ! The high sun sees not, on the earth, such fiery fearful show ; The roof-ribs swarth, the cendent hearth, the ruddy lurid row Of smiths, that stand, an ardent band, like men before the foe ; As, quivering through his fleece of flame, the sailing monster, slow Sinks on the anvil—all about the faces fiery grow—

"Hurrah ! they shout, ' leap out—leap out ; bang, bang, the sledges go : Hurrah ! the jetted lightnings are hissing high and low ; A hailing fount of fire is struck at every squashing blow ; The leatheran mail rebounds the hail ; the rattling cinders strow The ground around ; at every bound the sweltering fountains flow ; And thick and loud the swinking crowd at every stroke pant ' ho !

Leap out, leap out, my masters ; leap out and lay on load ! Let's forge a goodly anchor ; a Bower, thick and broad : For a heart of oak is hanging on every blow I bode ; And I see the good ship riding all in a perilous road, The low reef roaring on her lee ; the roll of ocean poured From stem to stern, sea after sea ; the mainmast by the board ; The bulwarks down ; the rudder gone ; the boats stove at the chains ; But courage still, brave mariners—the Bower yet remains, And not an inch to flinch he deigns save when ye pitch sky high, Then moves his head, as though he said, ' Fear nothin'—here am I !

Swing in your strokes in order ; let foot and hand keep time, Your blows make music sweeter far than any steeple's chime ; But while ye swing your sledges, sing ; and let the burden be, The anchor is the anvil king, and royal craftsmen we ! Strike in, strike in—the sparks begin to dull their rustling red ; Our hammers ring with sharper din, our work will soon be sped : Our anchor soon must change his bed of fiery rich array For a hammock at the roaring bows, or an oozy couch of clay ; Our anchor soon must change the lay of merry craftsmen here, For the yeo-heave-o', and the heave-away, and the sighing seaman's cheer ;

When, weighing slow, at eve they go, far, far from love and home ; And robbing sweethearts, in a row, wail o'er the ocean foam. In livid and obdurate gloom he darkens down at last ; A shapely one he is, and strong, as e'er from cat was cast.— O trusted and trustworthy guard, if thou hadst life like me, What pleasures would thy toils reward beneath the deep green sea ! O deep sea-diver, who might then behold such sights as thou ? The hoary monsters' palaces ! methinks what joy 'twere now To go plumb plunging down amid the assembly of the whales, And feel the churned sea round me boil beneath their scouring tails ! Then deep in tangle-woods to fight the fierce sea unicorn, And send him foiled and bellowing back, for all his ivory horn ; To leave the subtle sworder-fish of bony blade forlorn ; And for the ghastly-grinning shark to laugh his jaws to scorn ; To leap down on the kraken's back, where 'mid Norwegian isles He lies, a lubber anchorage for sudden shallowed miles ; Till snorting, like an under-sea volcano, off he rolls ; Meanwhile to swing, a-buffeting the far-astonished shoals Of his back-browsing ocean calves ; or, haply in a cove, Shell-strown, and consecrate of old to some Undine's love, To find the long-haired mermaidens ; or, hard by icy lands, To wrestle with the sea-serpent, upon cerulean sands.

O broad-armed fisher of the deep, whose sports can equal thine ? The Dolphin weighs a thousand tons that tugs thy cable line ; And night by night 'tis thy delight, thy glory day by day, Through sable sea and breaker white, the giant game to play ; But, shamer of our little sports ! forgive the name I gave, A fisher's joy is to destroy—thine office is to save. O lodger in the sea-king's halls, couldst thou but understand Whose be the white bones by thy side, or who that dripping band, Slow swaying in the heaving waves that round about thee bend, With sounds like breakers in a dream blessing their ancient friend : Oh, couldst thou know what heroes glide with larger steps round thee, Thine iron side would swell with pride ; thou'dst leap within the sea ! Give honor to their memories who left the pleasant strand, To shed their blood so freely for the love of fatherland, Who left their chance of quiet age and grassy churchyard grave, So freely, for a restless bed amid the tossing wave : Oh, though our anchor may not be all I have fondly sung, Honor him for their memory, whose bones he goes among !"

S. FERGUSON.

The unhappy prepossession which men commonly entertain in favor of ambition, courage, enterprise, and other warlike virtues, engages generous natures, who always love fame, into such pursuits as destroy their own peace, and that of the rest of mankind.—Hume.

Reviews.

EMERSON'S ADDRESSES.

Nature, Addresses and Lectures. By R. W. Emerson. Boston and Cambridge: James Munroe & Co. 1849.

THIS volume is a republication of articles long since printed, but now first collected together. We have never read any of it before. We opened it with curiosity, knowing the power of the author as a thinker and writer; read it with mingled delight and disgust; and closed it in sadness. Let us remember, now what we have learned from a careful, thoughtful, (we will venture to say) *humble* perusal; for we are always content to sit down in patience at the feet of a thinking, honest man, no matter of what school, to hear how this great vision of nature and humanity looks to him, knowing we shall grow wiser for his truth, and for his error.

And here we do cheerfully acknowledge, that to us Mr. Emerson seems to regard Nature with a just, and not undue valuation. When he speaks of her, there is the freshness and the power of poetry about his words, so that we follow him involuntarily into the sunlight or the starlight, and feel imagination at its wonderful work. As in reading Wordsworth, we are continually reminded how rich is nature in meaning, in joy, and consolation. He shows us clearly, too, the value of a life with her as a discipline to mind and heart; as the ingathering of a language which we may convert to high uses in the world of man; and as a means whereby we may listen to the speaking of the "universal spirit." We have found, too, here, as elsewhere in Mr. Emerson's writings, sentiments, flashes of thought of a scientific value; many valuable hints for those who shall build *Aesthetics* into a science; things thrown out as transient intuitions, which will bear logical analysis.

We are content and glad, then, to sympathize with Mr. Emerson in his estimation of nature, and to hold, indeed, that her noblest function "is to stand as the apparition of God."

Nor can one read this book without feeling that the author has a deep and earnest abhorrence of evil, not only in its grosser, but in its more refined forms; the common, ignoble dishonesties of society in action and word; the deep injustice of much that yet lingers in existing institutions. But while he feels man's need of elevation to a higher ideal, he sees with a clear sight the vanity and folly of the existing schemes for reform, and exposes the fallacy upon which they are moving :—

"We say, then, that the reforming movement is sacred in its origin ; in its management and details, timid and profane. These benefactors hope to raise man by improving his circumstances ; by combination of that which is dead, they hope to make something alive. In vain. By new infusions alone of the spirit by which he is made and directed, can he be remade and reinforced. The sad Pestalozzi, who shared with all ardent spirits the hope of Europe, on the outbreak of the French Revolution, after witnessing its sequel, recorded his conviction that 'the amelioration of outward circumstances will be the effect, but can never be the means of mental and moral improvement.'

"The reforms have their high origin in an ideal justice, but they do not retain the purity of an idea. They are quickly organized in some low, inadequate form, and present no more poetic image to the mind than the evil tradition which they reprobated. They mix the fire of the moral sentiment with personal and party heats, with measureless

exaggerations, and the blindness that prefers some daring measure to justice and truth. Those who are urging with most ardor, what are called the greatest benefits of mankind, are narrow, self-pleasing, conceited men, and affect us as the insane do. They bite us, and we run mad also.

* * * * *

The man of ideas judges of the commonwealth from the state of his own mind. 'If,' he says, 'I am selfish, then is there slavery, or the effort to establish it, wherever I go. But if I am just, then is there no slavery, but the laws say what they will.' But how frivolous is your war against circumstances! This denouncing philanthropist is himself a slaveholder in every word and look. We are all thankful he has no more political power, as we are fond of liberty ourselves. Then, again, how trivial seem the contests of the abolitionist, while he aims merely at the circumstance of the slave. Give the slave the least elevation of religious sentiment, and he is no slave: you are the slave: he not only in his humility feels his superiority, feels that much deplored condition of his to be a fading trifle, but he makes you feel it too. He is the master. The exaggeration, which our young people make of his wrongs, characterizes themselves. What are no trifles to them, they naturally think are no trifles to Pomey."

An estimation similar to this would be formed by any man of serene mind and heart, who should look around upon what is doing or attempted to be done now in the civilized world. Mr. Emerson, then, is not to be reckoned among the common tribe of Innovators. He acknowledges, as do thousands of those whom he calls Conservatives, the party of the Past; that the Reformers, the party of the Future, have a right ideal of justice, mixed up with, and to give life to their schemes, but he prophesies a failure in their method of realizing it. His reform is of a deeper kind. He would reform the soul. He would strike at the root of the evil, and convert the individual soul to what he thinks its purpose. We have in his writings no *Utopia*, no ideal of society. It would be hard to find how extensively he thinks his ideal of the individual man could be realized. We are reluctant to believe him so shallow-sighted as to ignore the mournful fact, for which humanity has been waiting, since its birth, of spiritual evil; that eternal mystery by which some, no matter how much enlightened, will, of their own deliberate choice, determine not to follow the law of right, call it revelation of reason, or the moral sentiment, or God's will externally pronounced, or what you will. Still, we are not sure that Mr. Emerson is not liable to this charge. But let this pass. He would that some,—many men should be ennobled, and cast, a leaven into the world,—how far to work upon it is no matter. His ideal of virtue is high and lofty,—in common phrase, not unlike the ideal of the stoics; to understand it one must know something of his metaphysic and his religion. To gather his aphorisms and paradoxes into a connected system, that one may understand his philosophic and religious creed, is not so easy a matter. It seems to be the law of his mind to throw these out without order, and leave his readers to translate them into the language of logical sequence. He gives us a random defence of an idealism, not unlike that of Berkeley or Fichte, that will look rather lame to those who acknowledge the refutation of those systems by Reid and Stewart, or Cousin. But this idealism, which makes everything of the soul, and refuses to acknowledge an objective essence in matter, is a part of his moral theory. It makes the individual soul more valuable,—then, we find often appearing, the doctrine that God manifests

himself in the individual soul, incarnates himself in every man. We are left without grounds for this assertion. We cannot find what is Mr. Emerson's starting point. But with the refutation of this we are not now concerned. We introduce it simply to show how it makes the soul precious in our author's estimation. To him the soul is complete in itself, with a possibility of perfection, nay of perfecting itself. That is the task for it. To set itself "perfect as a star" in the spiritual firmament. And this ideal it is to realize by—*Self-Reliance*.

There is no doubt about this. It appears everywhere in the book. He "cannot find language of sufficient energy to convey his sense" that this is the secret of virtue and strength.

In one of his addresses Mr. Emerson lets us into his religious opinions—to him all history is alike, and it is a degradation to make much more use of the mind of Christ, than of Epaminondas or Washington. Miracles are profanations. Inspiration is a common or ever possible fact. Jesus was a man whose intuition of truth was clear and intense, who "saw the mystery of the soul" and "estimated the greatness of man," who saw in prophetic vision the great truth, the result of this modern philosophy, that God incarnates himself in man, and who, beside himself in a "jubilee of sublime emotion," said, "I am divine, through me God acts; through me, speaks; would you see God, see me, or see thee, when thou thinkest as I now think."

We cannot tell (we speak in no irony, but in deepest seriousness) whether Mr. Emerson thinks his own intuition of truth as clear and intense as that of Jesus. If he does, would he dare to assume the sentence above quoted, as his own words, and cast it forth into the world? If this be indeed the sense of Jesus' words, men have forgotten that sublime truth for centuries. Now it is re-uttered from one of authority equal to that of Jesus. Now we have it in clear terms, no longer in tropes as Jesus uttered it. Are we not to expect still grander results from the new Apostle than from the old? How far will man's hardihood carry itself, and his pride make a fool of him?

But if Mr. Emerson will acknowledge a purer and intenser intuition of truth in Jesus than his own, then from his own mouth is he condemned, for nothing can be more opposite than Mr. Emerson's plan for man's reformation, and that of Jesus. We have the one saying—"To aim to correct a man by miracles is a profanation of the soul"—and the other, "Woe unto thee, Chorazin, woe unto thee, Bethsaida, for if the mighty works which have been done in thee had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they had long ago repented in sack-cloth and ashes," and "if I do not the works of my Father, believe me not." We hear the one say, "Rely on thyself"—and the other, "Believe in me." The one says the soul is complete in itself, and that the divine soul pervades humanity,—the other prays that his disciples, and they who shall believe through their word, and they only, "may be one," "as we are one." But enough of this. Our readers will see that the contrast might be extended indefinitely. We have adduced it simply to show into what an inconsistency our author has been betrayed. Indeed his ideal of virtue and the means to attain it, are the diametric opposite of the Christian; the one is, self-reliance—the other, self-renunciation. The culminating virtue of the one is pride, of the other humility: for who will say that this brooding over our own value, this imagination

that God in us is incarnate, this self-reliance, self-isolation, will result in anything but pride; and who does not remember the words of the other, "When ye have done all that ye can do, say we are unprofitable servants!" And, "whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased, and whosoever humbleth himself shall be exalted." We are not entering upon an argument from Scripture; but, if truth is one, and intuition of it differs in degree, and not in kind, how is it possible that in two claiming so much of it, such opposite conclusions should be reached?

But to meet our author on other grounds. He gives no proof for his maxim, that self-reliance is this unusual panacea. But try it by the test of experience. Throw it into the world. Let each man take to himself this new gospel—"Rely on thyself." Give it the benefit of the utmost explanation. Show that it means not, "Rely on thy whims and fancies, trust thy inclinations;" but, "believe thy intuition of right, believe in the treasures of thy reason, and enoble thyself by thy self-trust in endeavoring to execute this law within thee." What will the countless thousands who now choose to violate their conscience, do with such a maxim as this? And those who are little minded, can they be trusted thus to confide in the resources of their own reason? Is not an education of humanity to a fitness for it impossible? And who shall decide between differing judgments in the matter? For our author needs to be reminded, that to determine between right and wrong is an intellectual act; and conscience, or the moral sentiment, but preserves the obligation. Have not good men arrived at different ethical theories, and lived not to deplore the practical consequences of their own deductions? Or is the world but just now fit for this maxim? To the common sense, to the instinct of humanity, we will trust its refutation. Take it to thyself in imagination, O Neophyte, and see if thou wilt not seem to crystallize into selfishness. Let each new disciple grow to regard himself as the ideal man, and worship his own perfection, God incarnate in him; say to others, "Invade not my privacy, my integrity, touch me not, I am God,"—and what a world of love, and unity, and mutual self-sacrifice we should have! We have no fear of the spread of such philosophy, such religion as this. Nature will cry out against it, love and pity will melt down this icy pinnacle of pride for all but the high priests of this idolatry.

How different the Christian philosophy. Beware thy inclinations, trust not thy heart;—look into thy reason, if thou wilt, for intuitions, and judgments of truth and justice, but test its conclusions by this external law of God, which alone has taught man the riches of his own reason,—which alone has illuminated the dim chaos he found within himself.

Trust not thy own will and wisdom, but thy Maker's; remember thy weakness in following what thou knowest to be good, thy failures, and thy griefs;—trust no more thy strength, but receive the offer of His who died for thee. Here thou mayest find union with the divine nature; here thou mayest liken thyself to God. Remember that evil is in the world, and that external, formal, as well as internal, essential union is necessary to subdue it. Believe, then, in the necessity of organization, and if thou seest the excellence of unity in that organization, believe that God has not left his will unknown concerning it. Now thou hast found thy Saviour, now thou hast found his Church.

But the vices, the deficiencies, the mournful

unworthiness of the Christian lands? Alas, they are owing to these very principles that Mr. Emerson is now pushing upon the world, —dimly seen, but not less certainly acted upon. "My will, my wisdom," was in the heart and mind of those who have gone on in the sliding scale,—"not mine, but thine, O God," was the prayer of those who have been the salt of the earth. Self-reliance!—self-renunciation!—these have been on the banners of the opposing armies, and will be until the end of time—the one is, faith in self, the other, faith in God. This goes out of itself for trust and reliance, and acknowledges that the same hand which upholds the heavens and the earth, upholds its own willing integrity,—that, in the deification of its own essence, has no security that it shall not deify its inclinations; and its natural result is slavery to its own corruption. Were the law of the one, self-renunciation, universal, all disorders of society would vanish,—were the law of the other, self-trust, universal, it would lead ultimately to that state of war, which, according to Hobbes, was the normal state of man. That isolation to which it leads, the cold grandeur of Goethe, the aloofness from all warm, kindly sympathy, something like which we see in Mr. Emerson;—contrast it with the self-forgetfulness of apostles and saints, the men who went about doing good, seeking only the welfare of others, and yet in the pursuit finding their own truest welfare. And yet up to this freezing realm Mr. Emerson would have all men draw themselves.

We have dwelt the longer on this, because it is the one principle to which our author is ever guiding us. With it the worth of his writings, for all other than their poetic merit, must stand or fall. We think, then, they have too little of eternal truth to take their place in our permanent literature. But the fallacy which underlies them will for ever start up anew till the end of the world. In many shapes has it already appeared in the world's history; with pure-minded men generally for its heralds, the immorality of whose followers the world has grown ashamed of again and again.

We have sought to stand on Mr. Emerson's own ground, or we might have spoken of our horror at his irreverent blasphemy, his cool, patronizing way of speaking of Him "by whom all things were made." We cannot but think there is some affection in this, and that even he must have done violence to his own heart to speak in this manner. And when he says—"the manner in which his name is surrounded with expressions—official titles—kills all generous sympathy and liking," how little he seems to know, that they who adore can love with their strongest heart!

AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY.

The Life of Ashbel Green, V.D.M., begun to be written by himself in his Eighty-second Year, and continued to his Eighty-fourth. Prepared for the press at the Author's Request, by Joseph H. Jones, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. New York: Carter & Brothers.

It is a fortunate circumstance that the late venerable Dr. Green of Philadelphia left this full autobiographical volume. It exhibits to us the man more naturally, and with more of character than the most successful biographer could attain; and preserves to us many incidental anecdotes and recollections of his times, which are worthy to pass over to history, and which no biographer could have recalled. The general picture presented to us in this

volume recalls the memoir of Dr. Milnor, of this city, published by the American Tract Society during the last season. Both go back to Revolutionary times; the families of each were of the same grade; they appear to have been at Philadelphia in similar scenes of the pestilence; their general attainments, moderation of character, clerical position, their participation in religious societies, with other traits, suggest a striking parallelism.

Dr. Green was born in 1762, of high-toned Puritan descent, at Hanover, N. J. His boyhood was, therefore, thrown among revolutionary scenes, both by his age and the locality—New Jersey affording its full quota of anecdotes of the war. At the close of his life, in his seventy-eighth year, Dr. Green recalled his recollections of these times in a series of letters to his son. They were afterwards interwoven with a continued autobiography, and form the most valuable and attractive portions of the present volume. They appear to us to be of the first importance, as historical materials, by their vivid presentation of the period, and undoubted accuracy. The public events are mingled with others of equal interest, in the development of the country, its finances, &c. Thus we have a brief notice, in connexion with the then *new planet of Herschell*, of

DR. RITTENHOUSE.

"This planet was discovered by Herschell, in the time of our revolutionary war, when we could have no direct communication with Britain. The first information in detail of this discovery came to the United States by way of France. Dr. Rittenhouse told me, that when he had obtained the French statement, he was able to point his telescope, so as to take the planet into its field without another movement; that at the first look his eye was on the planet. His familiar knowledge of the starry heavens was wonderful. Nor was this his only attainment. He was among the first astronomers, natural philosophers, mathematicians, and mechanicians of his age. Nothing in mechanics has, I believe, exceeded his energy. Yet he was perhaps the most modest man I have ever known. He was one of my parishioners, and a regular attendant on public worship, as often as his feeble health would permit. I attended his funeral, and spoke at the grave. The remains were deposited under the pavement of his observatory, in his garden. At the request of his widow, I furnished her with a copy of my address at his interment, a part of which I afterwards found was published in *Rees's Cyclopædia*; but not, I think, exactly as I wrote it."

There is more than ordinary minuteness in what is said of the Whig and Tory printers of New York:—

HOLT AND RIVINGTON.

"Holt's paper was headed with the picture of a snake, cut into thirteen distinct sections, and each section bearing upon it the name of one of the thirteen colonies, which then professed allegiance to the King of Great Britain. As soon as our independence was declared, all the sections of the snake disappeared, and his whole attitude was changed. His tail was brought round and inserted in his mouth, or placed by its side, and his whole body was formed into a regular circle, the head and the tail being at the top of the paper. This snake-picture made so deep an impression on my youthful memory, that I retain it very distinctly to the present hour. This paper of Holt's had great influence throughout the whole wide region of its circulation, and its editor was considered as a public benefactor. He and Rivington, of course, pealed each other incessantly and severely, each endeavoring to sustain his cause by all the facts and arguments he could muster, and by some falsehoods too. Rivington remained in the city of New York after it was abandoned by the Ameri-

can troops, and became king's printer during the whole of the ensuing war, and nothing could exceed the violence of his abuse of the rebels, as he delighted to call the Americans, and the contempt with which he affected to treat their army, and *Mr. Washington, its leader*. It was, therefore, a matter of universal surprise, on the return of peace, that this most obnoxious man remained after the departure of the British troops. But the surprise soon ceased, by its becoming publicly known, that he had been a spy for General Washington, while employed in abusing him, and had imparted useful information, which could not otherwise have been obtained. He had, in foresight of the evacuation of New York by the British army, supplied himself from London with a large assortment of what are called the British classics, and other works of merit; so that, for some time after the conclusion of the war, he had the sale of these publications almost wholly to himself. Amongst others, I dealt with him pretty largely; and with nothing else to make me a favorite, the false letters which he addressed to me were a real curiosity. He was the greatest sycophant imaginable; very little under the influence of any principle but self-interest, yet of the most courteous manners to all with whom he had intercourse. You, I believe, have read the two pieces of satire in which Dr. Witherspoon has gibbeted him and Benjamin Towns, another printer, who served the British while their army held Philadelphia, and remained there when they left the city."

A curious account of Washington's Inoculation of the army for the small-pox, at Morristown, in 1777, is preserved, with some mention of the quartering of the officers and soldiers in that district, which proves that the warriors of the Revolution were much like other troops, and with Uncle Toby's battalions in Flanders, "swore terribly." A compliment to the ladies of the Revolution is worthy the attention of Mrs. Ellet:—"I do believe that a known tory, or a reputed coward, would have been hard set to find a reputable wife among the whole feminine community of our country, while our war with Great Britain continued." A statement is new to us (p. 87) that General Washington's face bore traces of the small-pox. A glimpse of Baron Steuben is highly imposing. The narrator, Dr. Green, was serving against Knyphausen's invasion of his native state:—"Here, for the first time, I saw the Baron de Steuben, the great and efficient disciplinarian of the American army. He rode up to our encampment, and requested to see our commanding officer. And never before or since have I had such an impression of the ancient fabled god of war, as when I then looked on the Baron; he seemed to me to be a perfect personification of Mars. The trappings of his horse, the enormous holsters of his pistols, his large size, and his strikingly martial aspect, all seemed to favor the idea." There are many remarks on incidental points, as Washington's want of resources, the cruelties of the war, the choice of Revolutionary office-holders, which will render this a work of standard historical reference.

To the militia scenes succeeded, in Dr. Green's life, a college course and tutorship at Nassau Hall, with recollections of the adjournment of Congress from Philadelphia to Princeton. He was subsequently Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick to preach in 1786, when he entered upon an associate pastoral charge in Philadelphia. We quote a few historical anecdotes of the period:—

A JEST OF WASHINGTON'S.

"It was the usage, while Washington was President of the United States, for the clergy of the city to go in a body to congratulate him on his

birthday: and on these occasions he always appeared unusually cheerful. The last time we made such a call, which was about ten days before his retirement from office, he said, with singular vivacity, ' Gentlemen, I feel the weight of years; I take a pair of sixes on my shoulders this day.' This great man was not in his proper element when he attempted a pleasant conceit. I never witnessed his making the attempt but on this occasion; and if his allusion, as I suppose must have been the case, was to the fifty-sixes used in weighing heavy articles, it was surely far-fetched, and not very obvious. He entered his sixty-sixth year at this time."

RHODE ISLAND ANTI-COMMERCIAL.

" Congress had in vain endeavored to persuade the several States to cede to that body the exclusive right of raising a revenue by a tariff on importations. It was manifest that unanimity in this matter was essential; since a free port in any one State of the Union would render the whole plan abortive. Rhode Island incurred much censure by an obstinate refusal to make the requisite concession. A merchant said in my hearing, that when a stranger wished to be introduced to him, he asked at once—' Are you, sir, from Rhode Island?' and if the answer was affirmative, he refused to take him by the hand, or to have any intercourse with him—an extreme case, certainly, but marking a feeling in which many, in different degrees, participated."

A TITLE FOR THE PRESIDENT.

" At the period we contemplate, I made a part of a company, in which a conversation took place, the report of which I think you will receive with some interest. Dr. William Shippen, the first professor, and for a long time an eminent one, in the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, had for his wife a lady of Virginia. It was, I suppose, in consequence of this, that when the Virginia delegation to the first Congress arrived in Philadelphia, on their way to New York, he invited some of the members of that delegation, or perhaps the whole of them, to a dinner at his own house. I remember the names of Madison, Page, and Lee, and I think there were one or two more. Chief Justice McKean, afterwards Governor of Pennsylvania, and Mr. William Bingham, subsequently a member of the United States Senate, were likewise invited guests; and as the doctor was a member of my congregation, he also honored me with an invitation. Soon after we had taken our seats in the drawing-room, before dinner, the Chief Justice said to Mr. Madison—' Have you thought, sir, of a title for our new President?' Madison's answer was in the negative; and he added, that in his judgment, no title, except that of President, would be necessary or proper. ' Yes, sir,' replied McKean, ' he must have a title; and I have been examining the titles of certain princes in Europe, to discover one that has not been appropriated. *Most Serene Highness*, I find is appropriated; but *Serene Highness*, without the word *most*, is not appropriated; and I think it will be proper that our President should be known by the style and title of *His Serene Highness, the President of the United States*.' This elicited an amicable controversy, which continued for some time, Madison and his colleagues opposing, and McKean maintaining the propriety of conferring the title he had proposed on President Washington."

Dr. Green was a member of the Synod, after the Revolution, engaged in arranging the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church. His "reminiscences" are succeeded by a New England Journal of travel in 1791, prefaced by a curious string of resolutions, which display the writer's character in an interesting light. At Boston he made an excursion in the harbor with Governor Hancock.

From 1792 to 1800, Dr. Green was Chaplain to Congress, and we have various instructive anecdotes of the interval. In the last-men-

tioned year there is an excursion to the Warm Springs of Virginia, where our journalist met a notorious gambler, of whom we have this life-like account:—

MAJOR WILLYS.

" He had been an officer of the regular revolutionary army of our country, but had, if I remember right, left the army at an early part of the war. He was remarkable for the size of his body, as well as for the peculiarities of his mind. He was weighed at the Sweet Spring, and I was careful to enter in my lost miscellany the result. He was certainly the largest and heaviest man I have ever seen, tall and well proportioned, but exceedingly fleshy. He had acquired a considerable degree of liberal knowledge, and was a wit and a mimic. He was at the head of all the gamblers of Virginia. When I heard of his coming to the Warm Spring, where I had got the company to treat religion respectfully, I said to a serious man who was well acquainted with Major Willys, that I was fearful he would give me trouble. ' That,' said the pious man, ' is an unnecessary fear; the Major values himself on being a friend to the clergy, and although he is dreadfully profane, he never swears in the presence of a minister of the gospel of whatever denomination.' This testimony I found to be strictly true. He not only attended public worship, but was an advocate for asking a blessing and returning thanks at our common meals. He left the Sweet and returned to the Warm Spring before I left the former, and the report was, that at the latter place he asked a blessing and gave thanks himself. This I could easily believe, when I was credibly informed, that at the Sweet Spring he said to a circle of his gambling friends, ' Gentlemen, you may think of it as you please, and laugh at it as I know you will, and yet it is strictly true, that I never close my eyes till I have committed myself to the protection of my God.' He was dreadfully afraid of death.

" On one occasion while at the Sweet Spring he was taken with a fit of fever and ague in the night, and was greatly alarmed lest it should prove mortal. Hearing of it, I visited him in his hut the next morning. But I found him surrounded by his gambling friends, so that I had no good opportunity to address him seriously. He launched out himself into a bitter denunciation of the character of a gambler. ' Doctor,' said he, ' I have two daughters whom I love dearly, and if any man should ask me for the hand of one of them in marriage, be his character in other respects what it might, if he gambled, I would most assuredly refuse him my consent.' I immediately said, ' Major, if such are your real sentiments, why do you not quit gambling for yourself?' He made me no other reply than this, ' Alas, Doctor, I have dipped, and I must go through.' After some time he got up and went to the spring, and took a tumbler of water, and then came up and addressed a company that gathered around him: ' Gentlemen,' said he, ' these sick turns that a man has, do him a good deal of good. They make him a sincere penitent for all his sins.' I stepped up to the circle that was listening to his harangue, and said to him, ' Major, I think I must take an exception to the doctrine that you are inculcating.' ' How so, Doctor?' he replied, ' I thought you would second me.' I answered, ' it seems to me a palpable absurdity for a man to say that he is a sincere penitent for his sins, while at the very time he says so, he determines to go on and commit the very same sins for which he avows his penitence.' ' You allow, then,' replied the Major, ' that for the time being it makes him a penitent.' ' That reminds me,' said I, ' of the following anecdote. A clergyman in New England had a negro by the name of Jack, who had a deadly quarrel with a neighboring negro by the name of Cuffy. Jack fell dangerously ill, and his master urged him to forgive Cuffy. Jack said that Cuffy was a very bad man, and he could not forgive him. ' I tell you Jack,' said his master, ' that you must forgive him, or God will not forgive you.' ' Well, massa,' said Jack,

" if I die I forgive him, but if I live Cuffy take care.' I never saw the Major so much confounded, as by this anecdote. He arrived at the Sweet Spring before our company. The number at this spring was much more multitudinous than at the Warm Spring, and I was fearful that if I did not break the ice at first, I should fail to do it afterwards. I got into the wake of Major Willys as we were struggling through the crowd, on our call to dinner, and said to him, ' Major, will you do me the favor to call this large company to order that I may ask a blessing before we dine?' ' To be sure I shall,' replied Willys. Accordingly he made his way to the head of the table, and with a large carving-knife, he struck it repeatedly, and stamping with his foot at the same time, vociferated ' silence,' which, when he had completely obtained, he turned to me, and said, ' Now, Doctor, you will please to ask a blessing.' This man, if a report I have heard be true, died a real penitent."

In 1812, Dr. Green was elected President of Princeton College, an office which he held for ten years, the great insubordination and revival being the chief incidents of his service. He subsequently returned to Philadelphia, where he died in May, 1848, having nearly completed his eighty-eighth year.

In his religious and social character he appears to have been constantly sincere, active, and urbane; one of the men who wear well, and attain and secure the confidence of the community. He was thrice married. A well finished portrait is prefixed to the volume (an unusually well printed octavo in large type) sustaining the following

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.

" When in his prime, he was as conspicuous a person as walked the streets of Philadelphia. His features were strong, his nose aquiline and prominent, but the great feature was his eye; it was very dark, piercing, and imperative; in my youth, I thought it the most formidable I ever saw. The prevalent expression of Dr. Green's face, as of his general manner, was that of honest, fearless determination, and assurance. It took but little to make this a forbidding frown, but it could also relax into a pleasing smile, in which the twinkle of the eye was very engaging. In later years, the latter greatly predominated; but in my childhood, in common with other young persons, I looked upon him with fear. Dr. Green and Dr. Livingston wore the last of the clerical wigs which I remember. Dr. Green's was large, and spreading down to his shoulders, with heavy curls; it was always powdered in the day when powder was worn. Conforming, however, to the change of mode, Dr. Green gradually reduced the dimensions of the wig, till at length it had little that was distinctive. In the pulpit, his form and face naturally acquired more dignity and energy; indeed, these were very great, so that his more finished sermons were delivered with a bodily vehemence, or what Cicero calls the *sermo corporis*, much beyond anything we now observe in our pulpits. On these occasions his eye was penetrating and alarming. I have often seen him, however, subdued into the gentlest modes of human aspect."

HUMBOLDT'S ASPECTS OF NATURE.

Aspects of Nature, in different Lands and different Climates, with Scientific Elucidations.
By Alexander Von Humboldt. Translated by Mrs. Sabine. Phila.: Lea & Blanchard. 1849.

The great source of the power and popularity of Humboldt is, that he has united the eye of the artist with the judgment of the philosopher, and loved nature with the faith of childhood, while searching her mighty secrets. The present work has been called for by the newly-awakened interest excited by the Cosmos, that great work which harmonizes the results of a half century of travel and observa-

tion. Nearly fifty years ago these aspects of nature were sketched, with the double purpose of affording pleasure by the description, and instruction in the mode of action, of the powers of a living and forceful universe. The second edition was prepared in Paris in the year 1826, and the author, who has just completed his 80th year, has given this, the third edition, those amendments that new discoveries in science and new explorations require.

The first picture is that of those extended plains, that, although assuming different appearances in different lands, with respect to vegetation, forcibly recall the idea of the dried bed of a former ocean. A great portion of South America consists of these plains, called in the north Llanos, and the south Pampas, and varying from the condition of a desert to that of a fertile meadow. But this peculiarity of surface is not confined to South America; it is reproduced in the North American prairies, in the heathers of Europe, on the elevated plains of Asia, the seat of pastoral tribes of wandering Tartars, and in the vast and sandy Sahara of Northern Africa. The first idea that strikes the mind of the gazer on these plains is thus forcibly developed by the great traveller, whose eye has neither wearied nor been satiated by dwelling amid scenes of natural grandeur.

"Like the ocean, the steppe fills the mind with the feeling of infinity; and thought escaping from the visible impressions of space, rises to contemplations of a higher order. Yet the aspect of the clear transparent mirror of the ocean, with its light curling, gently foaming, sportive waves, cheers the heart like that of a friend; but the steppe lies stretched before us dead and rigid, like the strong crust of a desolated planet."

After discriminating the natural features of the steppes of Europe, Asia, and Africa, dependent on the varying distribution of heat and moisture, as modified by latitude, elevation, and proximity to the ocean, the author paints the great South American Llanos at different periods of the year, now a desert, now an inland lake.

"Everywhere the death-threatening drought prevails, and yet by the play of refracted rays of light producing the phenomenon of the mirage, the thirsty traveller is everywhere pursued by the illusive image of a cool, rippling, watery mirror. The distant palm bush, apparently raised by the influence of the contact of unequally-heated, and therefore unequally dense strata of air, hovers above the ground, from which it is separated by a narrow, intervening margin. Half-concealed by the dark clouds of dust, restless with the pain of thirst and hunger, the horses and cattle roam around, the cattle lowing dismal, and the horses stretching out their long necks and snuffing the wind, if haply a moister current may betray the neighborhood of a not wholly dried up pool. More sagacious and cunning, the mule seeks a different mode of alleviating his thirst. The ribbed and spherical melon cactus conceals under its prickly envelope a watery pith. The mule first strikes the prickles aside with his fore feet, and then ventures warily to approach his lips to the plant and drink the cool juice. But resort to this vegetable fountain is not always without danger, and one sees many animals that have been lamed by the prickles of the cactus.

"At length, after the long drought, the welcome season of the rain arrives; and then how suddenly is the scene changed! The deep blue of the hitherto perpetually cloudless sky becomes lighter; at night the dark space in the constellation of the Southern Cross is hardly distinguishable; the soft, phosphorescent light of the Magellanic clouds fades away; even the stars in Aquila and Ophiuchus in the zenith shine with a trembling and less planetary light. A single cloud appears in the

South, like a distant mountain rising perpendicularly from the horizon. Gradually the increasing vapors spread like mist over the sky, and now the distant thunder ushers in the life-restoring rain. Hardly has the surface of the earth received the refreshing moisture, before the previously barren steppe begins to exhale sweet odors, and to clothe itself with Kyllingias, the many panicules of the Paspulum, and a variety of grasses. The herbaceous mimosas, with renewed sensibility to the influence of light, unfold their drooping, slumbering leaves to greet the rising sun; and the early song of birds, and the opening blossoms of the water plants, join to salute the morning."

The falls of the Orinoco furnish an equally striking object for description. These falls are situated near the village of Maypures, where the river breaks through the granitic barrier of the Sierra de Parime, in its circuitous course towards the ocean. The stream here has a breadth of considerably over a mile, interspersed by numerous islands and rocks, while the "cataracts consist of a countless number of little cascades, succeeding each other like steps." The entire fall hardly amounts to thirty feet.

"The best ocular demonstration of the small height of the whole fall is obtained by descending from the village of Maypures to the bed of the river, by the rock of Manimi. From this point a wonderful prospect is enjoyed. A foaming surface of four miles in length presents itself at once to the eye; iron-black masses of rock resembling ruins and battlemented towers rise frowning from the waters. Rocks and islands are adorned with the luxuriant vegetation of the tropical forest; a perpetual mist hovers over the waters, and the summits of the lofty palms pierce through the cloud of spray and vapor. When the rays of the glowing evening sun are refracted in these humid exhalations, a magic optical effect begins. Colored bows shine, vanish, and reappear, and the ethereal image is swayed to and fro by the breath of the sportive breeze. During the long rainy season the streaming waters bring down islands of vegetable mould, and thus the naked rocks are studded with bright flower beds, adorned with Melastomas and Droseras, and with small silver-leaved mimosas and ferns."

We have endeavored to assimilate these geographical essays to landscapes, and we hope that a few of these characteristic delineations of nature may not be unacceptable. The great valley of the Amazons is covered with a dense and impervious forest, save where the stream and its tributaries have channelled the otherwise unbroken waste. It is emphatically a primeval forest, "Urwald," "extending from the grassy steppes of Venezuela to the Pampas of Buenos Ayres, an area twelve times that of Germany." In this trackless wilderness, where ligneous shrubs, lofty trees, and countless vines and vegetable ropes preclude all travelling, the tribes of monkeys and countless birds live in the branches, while tigers pursue their prey during the night. The voices of the night in the primeval forest, and the silence of the summer noon-tide, form a contrast of wonderful beauty. The first is described as taking place on the banks of the River Apure, the second on the Orinoco, at the Narrows of Baraguan, where it forces its way through the western part of the Parime Mountains:—

"Soon after 11 o'clock, such a disturbance began to be heard in the adjoining forest, that for the remainder of the night all sleep was impossible. The wild cries of animals appeared to rage throughout the forest. Among the many voices which resounded together, the Indians could only recognize those which, after short pauses in the general uproar, were first heard singly. There was the monotonous howling of the aluates (the howling

monkeys); the plaintive, soft, and almost flute-like tones of the small sapajous, the snorting grumblings of the striped, nocturnal monkey (the Nyctipithecus trivirgatus, which I was the first to describe); the interrupted cries of the great tiger, the jaguar or maneless American lion, the peccary, the sloth, and a host of parrots, of paraguas, and other pheasant-like birds. When the tigers came near the edge of the forest, our dog, which had before barked incessantly, came howling to seek refuge under our hammocks. Sometimes the cry of the tiger was heard to proceed from amidst the high branches of a tree, and was in such case always accompanied by the plaintive piping of the monkeys, who were seeking to escape from the unwonted pursuit."

The noon-tide scene is described in these terms:—"A thermometer observed in the shade, but brought within a few inches of the towering mass of granite rock, rose to above 40° R., 122° Fahr. All distant objects had undulatory outlines, the effect of mirage; not a breath of air stirred the fine dust-like sand. The sun was in the zenith, and the flood of light which he poured down upon the river, and which, from a slight rippling movement of the waters, flashed sparkling back, rendered still more sensible the red haze which veiled the distance. All the naked rocks and boulders around were covered with a countless number of large, thick-sculled iguanas, gecko lizards, and variously spotted salamanders. Motionless, with uplifted heads and open mouths, they appeared to inhale the burning air with ecstasy. At such times the larger animals seek shelter in the recesses of the forest, and the birds hide themselves under the thick foliage of the trees, or in the clefts of the rocks; but if, in this apparent entire stillness of nature, one listens for the faintest tones which an attentive ear can seize, there is perceived an all-pervading, rustling sound, a humming and fluttering of insects close to the ground, and in the lower strata of the atmosphere. Everything announces a world of organic activity and life. In every bush, in the cracked bark of the trees, in the earth undermined by hymenopterous insects, life stirs audibly. It is, as it were, one of the many voices of Nature, heard only by the sensitive and reverent ear of her true votaries."

The novelty of certain situations, and the anticipations soon to be realized of the sight of natural scenes we are approaching, to the names of which we are accustomed, and the outlines we have imagined from descriptions from the earliest childhood, increase the pleasure derived from the impressions of the senses. Accompanied by such anticipations Humboldt enumerates, the first sight of the southern constellation of the Cross, of the Magellanic clouds, of the snow of Chimborazo, of the smoke ascending from the volcano of Quito, of the first grove of tree-ferns, and of the Pacific Ocean. We doubt not but that in many a rugged bosom, the breath even of the gold hunter will be drawn quicker as he first catches sight of that famous expanse of waters, where new seats of commerce and civilization are rising to the magical cry of gold. Humboldt thus describes his feelings in sight of the great ocean:—

"When after many undulations of the ground on the summit of the steep mountain ridge, we finally reached the highest point, the Alto de Guangamarca, the heavens, which had long been veiled, became suddenly clear; a sharp west wind dispersed the mist, and the deep blue of the sky in the thin mountain air appeared between narrow lines of the highest cirrus clouds. The whole of the western declivity of the Cordillera, by Chorilos and Cascas, covered with large blocks of quartz

13 to 15 English feet long, and the plains of Chala and Molinos, as far as the sea shore near Truxillo, lay beneath our eyes in astonishing apparent proximity. We now saw, for the first time, the Pacific Ocean itself; and we saw it clearly: forming along the line of the shore a large mass, from which the light shone reflected, and rising in its immensity to the well defined, no longer merely conjectured horizon. The joy it inspired, and which was vividly shared by my companions Bonpland and Carlos Montufar, made us forget to open the barometer until we had quitted the Alto de Guacamara.

Such are the great vistas through which the mind is led to the details and endless variety of knowledge connected with the earth and its inhabitants. These pictures are filled up with various objects of interest, not the least important of them being the perils and enterprises of the narrator and his companions.

Among other matters of importance, in a scientific point of view, may be mentioned the new and accurate measurements of two mountains in the Bolivian Andes, that for some years were believed to be the highest in the range—Sorata and Illimani. The former of these is put down at 21,286, and the latter at 21,145 English feet, by the careful observations of Mr. Pentland. In reference to the project of a communication between the Atlantic and Pacific, over the Isthmus of Panama, the author expresses his opinion most decidedly, "that the shortest way is in the eastern part of the Isthmus, and leads to the Golfo San Miguel." He speaks of surveys and projects "in the direction of a meridian between Portobello and Panama, or more to the west, towards Chagres and Cruces. Thus the most important points of the eastern and southeastern part of the Isthmus have remained unexamined on both shores." His concluding advice, which may carry some weight with our enterprising companies, is:—

"Let that part be particularly examined where, near the Continent of South America, the separating mountain ridge sinks into hills. Seeing the importance of the subject to the great commerce of the world, the research ought not, as hitherto, to be restricted to a limited field. A great and comprehensive work, which shall include the whole eastern part of the Isthmus, and which will be equally useful for every possible kind of operation or construction—for canal or for railway—can alone decide the much discussed problem either affirmatively or negatively. That will be done at last which should, and had my advice been taken, would have been done in the first instance."

WALLIS'S GLIMPSES OF SPAIN.

Glimpses of Spain; or, Notes of an Unfinished Tour in 1847. By S. T. Wallis. Harpers. SPAIN is comparatively one of the "out-of-the-way places of Europe." Not being "en route" from London and Paris to Rome, it therefore seldom forms a part of the budget of the returned European traveller, or of his "book." The subject, therefore, presents greater freshness than most European themes. With the exception of the Alhambra, the bull fights, and the national dances, most people have indistinct views of Spain. Her noble language is, we imagine, less studied than it was some years ago, when "French and Spanish" were the twin lingual extras of the school cards; her literature, apart from *Don Quixote*, is best known by Lockhart's Spanish Ballads; her artists (except Murillo, and he for his Beggar Boys) are scarce known by name. To the best of our recollection, we have had no American book of Travels on Spain since Mr. Slidell, some fifteen years ago

—so that Mr. Wallis has the advantage of almost a new generation of readers, as well as of—for these hackneyed days—a tolerably new subject.

His tour in Spain was confined to the cities of the Mediterranean and Andalusia, having been interrupted at that stage by unforeseen circumstances. He fortunately began on the best side of the country, and we like his book the better for not carrying us over a great deal of ground; and, for the novelty's sake, sparing us the usual "Chapter I., The Voyage," commencing with the Steamer Hercules out of the bay of New York, that celebrated craft which has towed many a traveller-author out on the sea of type, as well as the ship which bore him on the Atlantic.

Mr. Wallis had the advantage of knowing the language of the people he went among, an accomplishment which some of our tourists do not seem to regard as essential. The reader profits by his knowledge, in many a pleasant bit of character, sketched from steamer and diligence, table d'hôte, and inn kitchen, city promenade, or "back slum."

Here is a pleasant instance of the vague notions about America, afloat among Europeans:—

NEWSMEN IN SEVILLE.

"Among the cries of a Spanish town, the last, perhaps, that a traveller expects to hear, is that of a newsman; and yet, strange to say, it was as regular in Seville, while I was there, as any other of the ten thousand noises that were perpetually dinning in my ears. All about the streets, and in the public places, the paper-carriers went bawling the contents, real or imaginary, of their respective sheets: and I well remember that the most vociferous of them all was a poor fellow who passed the *Fonda* at the same hour every day, and who, being stone-blind, must have relied for his story on a good memory or a happy invention. The two journals that I used to see were of very moderate dimensions, but, as the secret of advertising had not yet been fully learned in Andalusia, they had abundant room for correspondence and editorial matter, both of which were of a very creditable character. The perfect freedom which the press at that time enjoyed, had elicited a great deal of talent; and the journals throughout Spain, so far as I had opportunities of seeing them, were conducted by clever, independent, and well-informed persons. In their strictures upon public men and measures, they were as unrestrained as our own press; in good taste and decorum, they were much above its average. The Seville papers were active in keeping their readers well supplied with the last news, though, occasionally, they used to serve matters up with those innocent variations which are so natural, when men write from afar and about strange things. Thus, in the *Diario* of May 14, 1847, in an article speculating upon the probable election of General Taylor to the Presidency of the United States, the argument was wound up by the following suggestion:—It is to be borne in mind that *Generals Jackson and Flannigan* owed their election to the Presidency to their military reputation." I treasured it up carefully, for a man travels to learn."

The author says his say on painting and churches:—

THE CATHEDRAL AT BARCELONA.

"From Santa Maria, we rambled up to the Cathedral, through many by-streets and cross-ways, passing through the oldest and quaintest portion of the city, and occasionally creeping under a queer, heavy archway, that seemed to date back almost to the days of Ramon Berenguer. Fortunately, we entered the church by one of the transept doors, and thus avoided seeing, until afterwards, the unfinished, unmannerly façade. It would not be easy to describe the impression made on me by my first view of the interior of this grand temple, without

the use of language more glowing, perhaps, than critical. When we entered, many of the windows were shaded; and it was some time before our eyes, fresh from the glare of outer day, became sufficiently accustomed to the gloom, to search out the fairy architecture in it. But, by degrees, the fine galleries, the gorgeous glass, the simple and lofty arches in concentrating clusters, the light columns of the altar-screen, and the perfect fret-work of the choir, grew into distinctness, until they bewildered us with their beautiful detail. What treatises, what wood-cuts, what eulogies, should we not have, if the quaint carvings, of which the choir is a labyrinth, were transferred to Westminster, and the stalls and canopies of the Knights of the Golden Fleece were side by side with those of Henry the Seventh's far-famed chapel! The same dark heads of Saracens which looked down on us from the 'corbels grim,' had seen a fair gathering of chivalry, when Charles V., surrounded by many of the gallant knights whose blazons were still bright around us, held the last chapter of his favorite order there! Perhaps—and how much more elevating was the thought than all the dreams of knighthood!—perhaps, in the same solemn light which a chance ray of sunshine flung down the solitary nave, Columbus might have knelt before that very altar, when Barcelona hailed him as the discoverer of a world! Let us tread reverently! He may have pressed the very stones beneath our feet, when, in his gratitude, he vowed to Heaven, that with horse and foot he would redeem the Holy Sepulchre! 'Satan disturbed all this,' he said, long after, in his melancholy way, when writing to the Holy Father; 'but,' then he adds, 'it were better I should say nothing of this, than speak of it lightly.' May it not have been, even in the moments of his first exultation, that here, in the shadow of these grey and awful aisles, he had forebodings of hopes that were to be blighted, and proud projects of ambitious life cast irretrievably away?"

He can on occasion break a lance with Mr. Ford, no light champion in a question of Art, in defence of a favorite Cathedral.

A dancing scene at Seville, a scampish, picturesque adventure, is well told:—

A BEWILDERING BALLET.

"In a little antechamber sate the chief musician; an old fellow, with his *calanes* stuck tight upon his head, and a vile fiddle in his hands, on which he sawed with might and main. A desolate-looking guitarist, by his side, pulled a monotonous accompaniment from very sorry strings, and these were the whole orchestra. Around the room with us sate a few elderly dames, decent, though poor, and there were groups gathering rapidly in the *corredor*. In a few moments, some gentlemen amateurs (*aficionados*) came in, and their appearance was the signal for the castanets to sound, and the corps de ballet to show themselves. A black-eyed, gipsy-looking girl, one of the *cigarreras* of the riot, led the way, a fair example, in her humble fashion, that—

"—are Spain's maids no race of Amazons,
But formed for all the witching arts of love."

Her clever, graceful figure, was done up in a tight bodice of black velvet, beneath which a *saya*, or short skirt, depended—full, floating, and miraculously flounced. Her hair was braided into the *moña*, or top-knot, which is worn by the *majas* at festive times, and there were carnations and roses tastefully mingled with her tresses, and festooned along her drapery. The silkiness of her hose was not much to speak of (if one must be candid), but her dancing implements were excellent to look upon, as such things nowadays go. In form and motion, altogether, she had but small resemblance to the fury, who, two days before, had shouted, 'Death to the *jefe político*!' and had broken the heads of his defenders. After the *cigarrera*, came a troop of younger girls, in *maja* costume, short, bright, and ample; and the rear was brought up by the queen of the evening, whom they called the *campanera*, or bell-woman, as she was the daugh-

ter of the bell-ringer of the Cathedral, and lived with him, high up among the hawks, on the top of the Giralda. She was a beautiful woman, even in Seville, of fine form and graceful carriage, and perhaps almost eighteen. Her *saya* was of the gipsy fashion, of varied and bright colors, covered all over with furbelows and flounces, and her little feet kept twinkling to the merry clinking of her castanets. The men were rather a bad specimen for Andalusia, but they had stripped themselves of their vests and jackets, and bound their red sashes tight about their waists, as if for serious work. About eleven, another party of *aficionados* came in, and then the performances began.

"It is not worth while to say anything about the variety of dances that we saw, for to look at such things, without the music and accompaniments, is but a dull business, and to read of them would be doubly dreary. There were *Sevillanas* and *jarabes*, *boleros* and the *jota Arragonesa*, all of which the reader, if he is a ballet-fancier, has seen more or less badly imitated by dancers from other countries. They are like the obelisks of Egypt, very national and characteristic, of course, but still not utterly untransportable. The *ole*, like the pyramids, must stay for ever where it was planted, and you might, in sober seriousness, as well attempt to ship the tomb of Cheops to France, as to have the *ole* done, as it should be, by any but an Andalusian born. I cannot describe it, of course, and yet I thought I had a very decided appreciation of the manner in which the *campanera* performed it, until—after gliding all around the room, with the melting glances, the tossed arms, the gyrations and saltations that the ease required—she lingered for an instant just in front of me, and stamping quickly twice or thrice upon the floor, went, 'dociili tremore,' through a dozen revolutions in a moment, of which, as I am a living man, I believe the drawing of a circle with her foot, about my head, was one! A strange, topsy-turvy feeling came upon me, as if the room were upside downward, and when my bewilderment was over, the *ole* was a shapeless dream!

Artistically considered, it would have been very difficult for the *campanera* to have been surpassed; but Spanish dancing, and especially the *ole*, is not a thing of art. There is no 'poetry of motion,' or philosophy, or metaphysics, or any such nonsense about it. It is a business of reality; a labor of love; and has nothing whatever to do with the floating on clouds, and gliding like sylphs, which have made so much money for the ladies 'in muslin wings and pink shoes.' The performer goes into it with body and soul, as well as arms and legs. The spectators, male and female, gaze on it with a rapt enjoyment, for which enthusiasm is a cold word. When the *maja* ties, in air, one of those indescribable and Gordian knots of hers, the castanets, in every hand, break into one wild rattle! 'Jaleo! jaleo! jaleo!' rings from every quarter; the fiddler—if there be one—grows lively to very desperation; the guitar jerks his notes out by the roots, and down the *calanques* go upon the floor at the fair dancer's feet, while cloaks are spread, like Raleigh's before Elizabeth! Excited by the admiration she has won, the *maja* spins around more actively and winningly than ever, when suddenly she pauses in front of some one—if pause that may be called, which is one vibratory motion all the while. Off comes the hat of the gallant whom thus she favors, and probably, before he thinks, he throws it at her feet. It would be wiser were he less impatient, for perchance she pauses but to mock him, and passes to another, not noticing his homage. If he will be cautious, he can cheat her, for her eyes have other business than that of looking at the ground. He may pretend to throw his hat down, and may hide it under the foldings of his cloak. If she is deceived and leaves him, the laugh is his; but if she stamps before him, then let him, as he is a squire of dames, down with his beaver, 'à ses pieds.' She may put her foot upon it in her triumph, if she will, but she is generous, and will not. She will vanish, as she came, except that she will pay him, as she passes, the bewildering compliment about

his head, which was, as I have written, so mysterious to me."

We cannot part from Mr. Wallis without expressing the desire of meeting him again on Spanish or other ground. His accomplished narrative style should not be allowed to rust in inactivity, a suggestion in which we think the public will bear us out by their reception of this eminently readable volume.

MRS. WELBY'S POEMS.

Poems by Amelia (Mrs. Welby of Kentucky). New enlarged edition. Illustrated with original Designs by Robert Weir. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1850.

Mrs. WELBY's poetry has all the elements of popularity. It is natural, graceful, and intelligible. Her verses flow along with a most unruffled harmony, sparkling with all manner of feminine and poetic fancies, and undisturbed by any ugly snags of false metre or incomprehensible metaphor. It is not strange, then, that seven editions of her poems should have been demanded by the admiring reading public. May they continue to call for them till the number has reached seventy times seven! There is great hope for the West if it has got so far in its appreciation of the arts as to recognise the claims of its own poets. What Sappho of the East or of the South has ever had such tributes to her genius? Amelia of the West is secure of her laurels, for she is part and parcel of the nationality of "beyond the Alleghanies."

Mrs. Welby's poems are presented in the present beautiful volume, one of the first "avant-couriers" of the approaching season of gilt edges and red morocco, in a guise worthy of their popularity, and of the attractions of her muse. Weir, the painter of West Point and its grand scenery, whose high reputation is of itself enough to give character to any book which he illustrates, has furnished some beautiful pictures for the text, and the work is issued by the Messrs. Appleton in a form to win the heart, and for ever to silence the cavils of the most crabbed unbeliever in the capabilities of American art, poetry, or typography.

The themes upon which Amelia of the West is most apt to display her poetic powers are generally very happily selected. She touches few chords which do not find an answering vibration in the sympathies and experiences of her readers. And here is the secret of her success. Poetry, after all, would be a great drug in the market of literature, were it not for its adaptedness to the everyday and ordinary feelings and doings of the world, as well as to the great occasions and events of life.

Now and then Mrs. Welby's imagination trips along a trifle faster than the sober properties of fact can justify. As, for example, when she tells us in her, "Musings" (p. 28)—

"I wandered out one summer night,
'Twas when my years were few,
The wind was singing in the light,
And I was singing too;
The sunshine lay upon the hill,
The shadow in the vale,
And here and there a hissing rill,
Was laughing on the gale."

Here is a combination of natural phenomena that we can hardly credit the existence of even in Kentucky. But as we said, this is only the evidence of the exuberance of the imagination of our Poetess. In this same poem, after getting on a little further and moderating her step, there are some very happy expressions and felicitous turns of thought.

"The waves came dancing o'er the sea,
In bright and glittering bands,

*Like little children wild with glee,
They linked their dimpled hands.*"

"The flowers all folded to their dreams,
Were hewed in slumber free,
By breezy hills and murmuring streams,
Wherever they chance to be.
No guilty tears had they to weep,
No sins to be forgiven,
They closed their eyes and went to sleep
'Neath the blue eye of heaven."

We quote a few stanzas from a poem on an entirely national and indigenous topic, the Mammoth Cave.

"The glittering dome, the arch, the towering column;
Are sights that greet us now on every hand.
And all so wild—so strange—so sweetly solemn—
So like one's fancies formed of fairy land!
And these are then your works, mysterious Powers!
Your spells o'er, around us and beneath,
These opening aisles, these crystal fruits and flowers,
And glittering grots and high arched beauteous bower,

As still as death!

* * * * *
But lead us on! Perhaps than this fair region
Some lovelier yet in darkling distance lies,
Some cave of beauty, like those realms Elysian,
That oftentimes open on poetic eyes!
Some spot where led by fancy's sweet assistance
Our wandering feet o'er silvery sands may stray,
Where prattling waters urge with soft resistance,
Their wavelets on till lost in airy distance,
And far away!

* * * * *
Oh, silent cave! amid the elevation
Of lofty thought could I abide with thee,
My son's and shrine, my heart's lone habitation
For ever and for ever thou shouldst be!
Here into song my every thought I'd render,
And thou, and thou alone shouldst be my theme,
Far from the weary world's delusive splendor
Would not my lonely life be all one tender
Delicious dream!"

[From the Tribune.]
MISERIMUS.

"Rest! perturbed spirit!"

BY R. H. STODDARD.

1. *

He has passed away
From a world of strife;
Fighting the wars of Time and Life;
The leaves will fall, when the winds are loud,
And the snows of Winter weave his shroud,
But he will never, ah never know,

Anything more,
Of leaves and snow!

II.

The Summer tide

Of his life was past, [blast;
And his hopes were strewn like leaves on the
His faults were many—his virtues few,
A tempest, with flecks of the Heaven's blue!
He might have soared in the morning light,
But he built his nest
With the birds of Night!

III.

He glimmered apart
In a solemn gloom,

Like a dying lamp in a haunted tomb;
He touched his lute with a cunning spell,
But all its melodies breathed of Hell!
He summoned the Afrits and the Ghouls,

And the pallid ghosts
Of the damned souls!

IV.

But he lies in dust,
And the stone is rolled
Over his sepulchre dim and cold;
He has cancelled all he has done or said,
And gone to the dear and holy dead!
Let us forget the path he trod,
And leave him now
To his Maker, God!

October 17, 1849.

IT behoves us ever to bear in mind, that while actions are always to be judged by the immutable standard of right and wrong, the judgment which we pass upon men must be qualified by considerations of age, country, situation, and other incidental circumstances; and it will then be found, that he who is most charitable in his judgment, is generally the least unjust.—SOUTHHEY.

Correspondence.

BOSTON, 23rd October, 1849.

"How pleasant it is to have fires again! We have not time to regret summer, when the cold fogs begin to force us upon the necessity of a new kind of warmth;—a warmth not so fine as sunshine, but, as manners go, more sociable." So writes that jovial old cockney, Leigh Hunt. And who is there who does not, with Mr. Macaulay, "have kindness for Mr. Leigh Hunt?" He can certainly speak as one having authority upon all matters relating to comfort. He is the poet of everyday life. He throws a halo of poetry around the commonest objects. As Carlyle has been the philosopher, so is he the poet, of clothes. Beneath his magical touch the greatest incongruities are poetically harmonized: the lighted shop windows and roar and rattle of omnibuses are invested with equal charms with the moonlit bank and the whippoorwill's song. Hot weather puts him in good rather than ill humor, and draws from him poetry rather than perspiration. He has fixed the amaranthine crown of poesy upon the subject of *hats*, and has made a common walking-stick to bloom like Aaron's rod. He is not insensible to the lustre of the *sunshine* in the kennel, and finds sermons even in the stones of Fleet street. Leigh Hunt can never grow old:—he already numbers nearly three-score and ten years, but his heart is as young as it was forty years ago, when he made his cell in prison so delightful that Charles Lamb declared that there was nothing equal to it except in a fairy tale. His heart will ever be the heart of a youth: age cannot wither that.

There are but few men who can keep alive the enthusiasm of youth amid the cares and trials of maturer life. Among these blessed few, Dr. Holmes and the Rev. Henry Giles may be classed eminently high. When Mr. Giles first delivered his lecture on Falstaff, the Masonic Temple presented a very humorous appearance. There, before a crowded audience, stood the genial lecturer, himself no Titan, extolling the aldermanic character, and seconding the wish of Caesar,

"Let me have men about me that are fat!"

The ludicrousness of the scene seemed to be equally apparent to both lecturer and audience—so much so that for a moment even the great subject before them was forgotten, and all joined in a hearty laugh. The following passage from the lecture, which Messrs. Ticknor and Company are now printing in connexion with several others, was one which Mr. Giles got through with great difficulty:—

"There is something cordial in a fat man. Everybody likes him, and he likes everybody. Your Ishmaelites are, in truth, a bareboned race; a lank tribe they are—all skeleton and bile. Food does a fat man good; it clings to him; it fructifies upon him; he swells nobly out, and fills a generous space in life. He is a living, walking minister of gratitude to the bounty of the earth, and the fulness thereof; an incarnate testimony against the vanities of care; a radiant manifestation of the wisdom of good humor. A fat man, therefore, almost in virtue of being a fat man, is, *per se*, a popular man; and commonly he deserves his popularity. In a crowded vehicle the fattest man will ever be the most ready to make room. Indeed, he seems half sorry for his size, lest it be in the way of others; but others would not have him less than he is; for his humanity is usually commensurate with his bulk. A fat man has abundance of rich juices. The hinges of his system are well oiled; the springs of his being are noiseless; and so he goes his way rejoicing, in full

contentment and placidity. * * * A fat man feels his position solid in the world; he knows that his being is *cognisable*; he knows that he has a marked place in the universe, and that he need take no extraordinary pains to advertise mankind that he is among them; he knows that he is in no danger of being overlooked. Your thin man is uncertain, and therefore he is uneasy. He may vanish any hour into nothing; already he is almost a shadow, and hence it is that he uses such laborious efforts to convince you of his existence; to persuade you that he is actually something; that he is more than non-entity; that he is a positive substance as well as his corpulent fellow-creature. * * * * It really does take a deal of wrong to make one actually hate a fat man; and if we are not always so cordial to a thin man as we ought to be, Christian charity should take into account the force of prejudice which we have to overcome against his *thinness*. A fat man is the nearest to that most perfect of figures, a mathematical sphere; a thin man to that most limited of conceivable dimensions, a simple line. A fat man is a being of harmonious volume, and holds relations to the material universe in every direction; a thin man has nothing but length; a thin man, in fact, is but the *continuation of a point*."

Benedetti is giving a series of concerts here, assisted by Truffi, Rosi, Signor and Signora Vita, and Barili as pianist. The musical teachers' convention concluded its yearly session a few days since. The closing performance consisted of Mozart's Twelfth Mass, sung by one hundred voices, selected from eight hundred present, and accompanied by the fine orchestra of the Musical Fund Society. The Handel and Haydn Society have in rehearsal Donizetti's oratorio, the *Martyrs*.

Dr. Lodge's translation of Winckelmann's History of Greek Art, which has been delayed on account of the plates, is now ready, and will be published by Messrs. James Munroe and Company next week.

In addition to the list of books which they have already announced, Messrs. Ticknor, Reed, and Fields have in the press a complete collection of Mr. James Russell Lowell's Poems, to be printed in the style of Tennyson and Longfellow, in two duodecimo volumes.

Mr. John Bartlett, of the University Book-store, Cambridge, will publish a new edition of Professor Felton's Birds of Aristophanes in a day or two, and has in preparation the Philopics of Demosthenes, edited by Professor M. J. Smead of William and Mary's College.

The principal literary topic of conversation is the forthcoming History of Spanish Literature by Mr. George Ticknor, the stereotype plates of which are now finishing at Cambridge. It is to be printed in three octavo volumes, in the style of Mr. Prescott's Works, and will be published before Christmas, simultaneously in London and in New York, by Mr. Murray and the Messrs. Harper. This work, which, it should be borne in mind, does not consist of the author's lectures on Spanish Literature delivered some twenty years since in the University at Cambridge—is the fruit of some thirty years' constant study, during which time Mr. Ticknor twice visited Europe for the purpose of collecting materials, and otherwise increasing his knowledge of his subject. It is the first attempt at literary history ever made in America, and may almost be said to be the only history of the entire literature of a nation in the English language. It is intended to present a complete view of the literary life of Spain, from the earliest ages to the French Invasion in 1808. It is not a literary history merely, written as if the literature of a nation were something entirely disconnected from its politics and morals; but it has been Mr. Tick-

nor's aim to present the literature of Spain as the exponent of the Spanish character and civilization. The history of a nation's literature has too often been thought to consist in giving a catalogue of the works of its authors, accompanied by a series of descriptive criticisms. "There are persons," says Schlegel, "who have an unconquerable passion for the titles of books, and we willingly concede to them the privilege of increasing their number by books on the title of books. It is much the same thing, however, as in the history of a war to give the name of every soldier who fought in the files of the hostile armies." Mr. Ticknor has endeavored to avoid this error. Though he has, with the care and faithfulness of a true scholar, neglected to chronicle none of Spain's intellectual warriors, and to furnish reliable accounts of their weapons, yet, in his care for particulars, he has not been unmindful of the results of their prowess, nor of their influence on the general destinies of their country. He has produced a work, which, aside from the importance and value which will be attached to it by the man of letters, cannot fail to find favor with the student of history and the general reader.

Mr. Ticknor possesses one of the most valuable private libraries in New England, containing, besides a choice collection of English Literature, the most complete Spanish Library in America. It numbers some twelve thousand volumes.

C. B. F.

[From the *Paris Cor. of the Journal of Commerce*.]

An American or British physician, indeed any general reader, could scarcely find a more interesting book than the new edition by Dr. Parise, of the Letters of Guy Pain, a celebrated medical lecturer and practitioner of the first half of the seventeenth century. He was not only the first French physician of the era, but a writer of sarcastic wit, who handled the philosophy and politics in vogue, with peculiar vivacity and talent. The theories and practice of medicine; the reigning ideas of the healing art and methods; the fashionable drugs, &c., of the age, may all be learnt from his correspondence. He was of the Sangrado school, however, with all his sagacity and humanity. The simplicity, order, morals, and toils, of his private life, were admirable. *Maitre Nicholas Lavernan*, a famous and very pious French surgeon of the 16th century, always said when he had saved a patient, "I dressed him, God cured him," *Je le pansay: et Dieu le guarit*. This humility is not common in the present age.

An eminent French physician, Dr. Carrière, has just published an octavo on the *Climate of Italy*, in the hygienic and medical respects. It is the fruit of many years of observation and research, and residence in the most important cities of the Peninsula; and is pronounced the most satisfactory and comprehensive extant on the subject. Several able essays on the *Climate of Rome* have come from the medical staff of the French army of occupation. The *malaria* still periodically returns, and makes havoc, and it has not spared the French troops, of whom, at one time, a large number were on the sick list. Several distinguished physicians, surgeons, and druggists, have just been dispatched from Paris to Rome, to attend the military hospitals.

Preference is given, in this capital, to the *Studies of Stephen Heller*, on the Piano, above all other works of the kind, whether for professors, pupils, or amateurs. *Florentino* describes it as the true encyclopædia of the pianist—a series of instructive and delightful musical poems, graduated from the easiest and simplest compositions to the most complex and difficult. It is adopted for the Conservatory of Music. Heller is a performer of great skill and taste.

Much praise is bestowed on a new work of mu-

ical criticism, entitled the *Eighteen Poems of Beethoven*. It is divided into as many chapters as the great master has composed of *quatuors*. Each chapter consists of a development and commentary on the *idea* of Beethoven.

Chateaubriand's whole survey, in his seventh volume, of Napoleon's temperament, career, system, and purposes, has fresh, rare, and most impressive character. It is that of a man of genius, who had made a long and close study of the whole, and who from his proximity, connexions, political and recent agency and experience, and his intense interest in the composition and transactions of the government, in the fate of his country, and the nature and course of Buonaparte, wrote with every stimulus and advantage for the exercise of his powers as a biographer and critic. Had I time I would translate for you the final analysis and judgment, and the recapitulation of his views and conclusions—a masterly sketch. He follows Napoleon to St. Helena, and to the death and burial, with his usual felicity of description and sentiment, and that captivating exhibition of the romantic side of every life and signal event, by which his productions are individuated.

What is Talked About.

— The REV. HENRY GILES will deliver a course of lectures at the rooms of the Mercantile Library Association, on the "Agencies in Social Culture," including Books, Conversation, Music, Love of the Beautiful, &c. The lectures will commence November 13th.

— The Exhibition of the Works of MR. POWERS, the sculptor, will, we understand, shortly close at the Gallery of the Old Masters; the statues themselves being all disposed of. The Greek Slave, it gives us pleasure to learn, is to become the permanent property of the Smithsonian Institution, and be lodged in a hall worthy of her fame. The bust of JACKSON will, we trust, not be placed where it will be inaccessible to the public. Duplicates should be found in all our cities.

— MR. MACREADY commenced his last London season prior to his permanent retirement from the stage, on the evening of October 8, at the Haymarket Theatre, with Macbeth. His reception was marked by the highest enthusiasm. The theatrical columns of the newspapers are mostly occupied with accounts of these personal attentions, which are contrasted—we do not think in the best taste—"with the indignities offered on the other side of the Atlantic." Unhappy as were the circumstances under which Mr. Macready left America, his friends in London would do his position great injustice by acknowledging any reproach of this kind as attaching to the American people; and no one, we are confident, would sooner repudiate the occasional insulting tone of the *Times* to America than Mr. Macready himself. In the sequel to its notice of the opening, that Journal thus speaks of certain points of Macbeth:—"The great feature of his interpretation is the fearful perspicuity with which he marks the oppressive effect of a guilty conscience, in its various phases of horror and remorse. On his first entrance he takes care to bear an aspect of remarkable cheerfulness and buoyancy, thus preparing for the contrast of woe which is to follow. In the scene with Lady Macbeth, when the murder has just been committed, he represents the sense of guilt as having a crushing effect—as bearing down the energies with an almost physical weight. . . . It is obvious that all the natural energies of the man have been wasted away by one corroding thought, and that he has arrived at the terrible conviction that peace of mind is im-

possible. The desperate efforts which he makes to lift himself for a while out of the abyss of despondency, are admirably depicted, serving to show but more clearly the real depth of the despair. . . . The great art in these touches consists in plainly showing that the buoyancy of the moment is no spontaneous production, but is called forth by a painful exertion which can give no permanent result."

— GEORGE CRUIKSHANK, the distinguished artist, presided at a late English celebration of the formation of a Mechanic's Institute, and in the course of the proceedings gave his personal views of the subject of Caricature, in terms honorable to his character as a man, and well worthy adoption by the youthful members of his profession. "At the time," said he, "when my talents were directed and misled by others, and before my own mind was fully formed, I must have done many mischievous things as a caricaturist. But when my mind was formed, and I began to act for myself, I determined—as it had always been against my own private feeling to hurt the feelings of others—I determined never to commit a personal caricature; and feeling that, as a gentleman, and as an independent man, I never could work for the benefit of any political party, I naturally left personal and political caricature; since which I have done the best I could to amuse, and where I could, to instruct the younger portion of the community."

— MR. ALBERT SMITH's wagery has accompanied him to Constantinople, a Turkish paper mentioning the arrival at that place of "a most celebrated English political economist, publicist, and archaeologist, author amongst other works, of the 'Wealth of Nations' and the 'History of Ghent'—Mr. Albert Smith."

— RACHEL is to remain at Paris to represent *Charlotte Corday* in a new drama by Ponsard, which is to be brought out at the Odéon, with Frederick Lemaître as Marat, and Boeage ("the idol of the Boulevards") as Danton; abundant material for a theatrical sensation.

— "Our eminent *philosophe*, M. COUSIN," writes the Paris correspondent of the *London Literary Gazette*, "has lately brought out a new edition of his works, with an *avant-propos*, containing the following appreciation of the prose writers of France, which, from such an eminent authority, will no doubt interest your readers, even if it should not (as is very probable) win their assent:—

"In my opinion it is in prose writing that our most certain literary glory lies. England, Spain, Germany, and Italy have poets equal, and sometimes superior, to ours. But what modern nation possesses prose writers who approach those of France? The country of Shakspere and Milton possesses no prose writer of the first order. That of Dante, Petrarch, Ariosto, Tasso, is in vain proud of Machiavelli, whose sound and strong diction is, like the ideas he expresses, destitute of grandeur. Spain has, it is true, produced an admirable writer, but he is *unique*—Cervantes. Germany does not yet present any uncontested model. Luther and Lessing are named with honor, and in our days, Fichte, Jacobi, Schiller, Goethe, Schelling. But France can easily name a list of more than twenty prose writers of genius!—Froissart, Rabelais, Montaigne, Descartes, Pascal, La Rochefoucauld, Molière, Retz, La Bruyère, Malebranche, Bossuet, Fenelon, Flechier, Bourdaloue, Massillon, Madame de Sevigné, Saint Simon, Mon-

tesquier, Voltaire, Buffon, J. J. Rousseau; without speaking of so many others who would be in the first rank anywhere else—Amiot, Calvin, Pasquier, Charron, Balzac, Vauzelles, Pelisson, Nicole, Fleury, Saint Evremont, Madame de Lafayette, Madame de Maintenon, Fontenelle, Vauvenargues, Hamilton, Le Sage, Prevost, Beaumarchais. It may be said with the most exact truth that French prose writings are unrivalled in modern Europe; and even in antiquity they are incomparably superior to Latin prose writings, except, perhaps, in some treatises and in letters of Cicero, and are only equalled by the Greek prose writings in their best days, from Herodotus to Demosthenes. I do not prefer Demosthenes to Pascal, and it would cause me pain to place Plato himself above Bossuet. Plato and Bossuet, in my opinion, are the two greatest masters of human language who have yet appeared among men: they have manifest differences, but also more than one point of resemblance; they both speak generally like the people, with the greatest *naïveté*, and yet at times ascend without effort to poetry as magnificent as that of Homer, ingenious and polished up to the most charming delicacy, and by instinct majestic and sublime. Plato, without doubt, has incomparable grace, supreme serenity, and, as it were, the half smile of divine wisdom. Bossuet is pathetic, and therein has no rival except the great Corneille."

— The President of the French republic, it is said, has authorized a Mr. Jacob Brett, an Englishman, to establish a submarine telegraph on the coast between Calais and Boulogne, to communicate with England at Dover, the work to be finished by the 1st of September, 1850. We have heard nothing recently of the proposal to Congress of the marine Atlantic telegraph from Maine to Ireland by a series of buoys across the Banks of Newfoundland.

Publisher's Circular.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND ADVERTISERS.

With the present number the bills for Subscriptions due for the current year will be sent to our subscribers out of the city. May we ask the favor of immediate attention to the terms of subscription? As every one of our subscribers feels, we trust, some interest in sustaining our labors, we would remind all indebted to the Journal of the necessity of complying promptly with this request. The experiment of publishing newspapers for any length of time on the credit system has been tried, found to be ruinous, and has been abandoned in every well-conducted enterprise. We cannot undertake to furnish any one with the *Literary World*, who shall remain in arrears of the regular payment of subscription after due presentation of the bill. The enforcement of this rule may lead to some occasional inconveniences, but not at all in proportion to the serious injury which attends the neglect of collections at the proper time.

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W. A. JONES, author of the volume of acute and original criticism, entitled "Literary Studies," is about to publish a new work to be entitled "Essays upon Authors and Books."

MRS. SOUTHWORTH, Author of "Retribution," will commence immediately a new tale in the columns of the National Era, exhibiting the nature and tendency of *Pride* and its consequences.

BAKER & SCRIBNER have just published, "Sights in the Gold Regions, and Scenes by the Way," by THEODORE T. JOHNSON. 1 vol. 12mo.

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Mr. TICKNOR'S "History of Spanish Literature" will be published by the Harpers in December.

The Art-Journal for October (VIRTUE & CO., agent) contains engravings from MACLISE'S "Malvolio," and WEBSTER'S "Truant," in the Vernon Gallery; Marshall's Statue of "Sabrina," and an article on the Exhibition of Manufactured Art in Birmingham, illustrated by *one hundred and fifty* engravings on wood. The same publishers have ready Parts 8 and 9 of the Pictorial edition of Lord Byron's works.

LITTLE & BROWN (and through them the book-sellers generally) have for sale, received in advance by the steamer, the new number of the *Edinburgh Review*. It contains articles on Reason and Faith, Agriculture and Science, Tennyson, the Electric Telegraph, Schools of Design, Social Philosophy, Statistics of Coal, and Pepys' Diary.

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